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International drug control

Implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly devoted to countering the world drug problem together

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/124 of 19 December 2001. It provides an overview of the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly devoted to countering the world drug problem together, held in New York from 8 to 10 June 1998, including the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, and Assembly resolution 56/124.

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I. Introduction

1. In June 1998, the General Assembly, at its twentieth special session, devoted to countering the world drug problem together, adopted: (a) a Political Declaration (resolution S-20/2, annex); (b) the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction (resolution S-20/3, annex); and (c) measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem (resolution S-20/4), including the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors (resolution S-20/4 A), measures to prevent the illicit manufacture, import, export, trafficking, distribution and diversion of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (resolution S-20/4 B), measures to promote judicial cooperation (resolution S-20/4 C), measures to counter money-laundering (resolution S-20/4 D) and the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development (resolution S-20/4 E). In paragraph 20 of the Political Declaration, the Assembly called upon all States to report biennially to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on their efforts to meet the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008 and requested the Commission to analyse those reports in order to enhance the cooperative effort to combat the world drug problem. Subsequently, at its fifty-fourth session, the Assembly adopted the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction (resolution 54/132, annex, of 17 December 1999).

II. Action taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session

2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 56/124 of 19 December 2001, entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", urged competent authorities, at the international, regional and national levels, to implement the outcome of the twentieth special session, within the agreed time frames, in particular the high-priority practical measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem. The Assembly also called upon all States to report biennially to the Commission on their efforts to meet the goals and targets in 2003 and 2008, as set out in the Political Declaration, in accordance with the terms established in the guidelines adopted by the Commission. In its resolution 45/13 entitled "Optimizing systems for collecting information and identifying the best practices to counter the demand for illicit drugs", the Commission called upon Member States to redouble their efforts in 2002 so as to provide timely and comprehensive replies to the biennial reports questionnaire so that a careful and meaningful analysis could be made in the review of the progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets for 2003. The first consolidated biennial report of the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), presented to the reconvened forty-fourth session of the Commission in December 2001, was based on 109 questionnaires submitted by Governments. As requested by the Commission, the report covered the efforts made and the difficulties encountered by Governments in meeting the objectives and target dates agreed upon at the twentieth special session.

3. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session, including on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and on resolution 56/124. The present report has been prepared in response to that request.

III. Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction

4. The Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and the accompanying action plan provide the international community with a clear strategy including objectives, targets and guidelines for activities. The year 2003 was set as a target date for the adoption of new or enhanced drug demand reduction strategies and programmes set up in close collaboration with public health, social welfare and law enforcement authorities. In its resolution 56/124, the General Assembly urged all Member States to implement the Action Plan in their respective national, regional and international actions and to strengthen their national

efforts to counter the abuse of illicit drugs among children and young people. The Assembly recognized the role of UNDCP in developing action-oriented strategies to assist Member States to implement the Action Plan.

5. In its resolution 56/124, the General Assembly welcomed the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, adopted on 27 June 2001 at the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, including the acknowledgement of the link between drug-using behaviour and HIV infection. In response to the Declaration, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs adopted resolution 45/1 entitled "Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in the context of drug abuse". The Commission, inter alia, called on UNDCP to continue to cooperate with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and other United Nations entities in introducing and strengthening programmes to address HIV/AIDS.

6. In resolution 56/124, the General Assembly called upon relevant United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the international financial institutions and other concerned intergovernmental and international organizations, and all actors of civil society, to continue their close cooperation with Governments in their efforts to promote and implement the outcome of the special session and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. UNDCP has continued to assist Member States in reaching the objectives of the special session, among others by supporting Governments in the establishment of an epidemiological infrastructure to support a database on the drug abuse situation and to promote best practices in prevention and treatment measures. UNDCP worked closely with specialized agencies, the European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States, the United Nations Children's Fund and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, such as the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, UNAIDS and the United Nations Population Fund.

7. At its forty-fourth session in March 2001, the Commission adopted resolution 44/5 entitled "Prevention of recreational and leisure use of drugs among young people". In that resolution, the Commission encouraged States to develop information systems and prevention programmes aimed at raising public awareness of the risks associated with the new trends in illicit drug use among young people, and to adapt their research on drug addiction and their treatment networks and health, education and social services, taking into account the new patterns of illicit drug abuse. The Commission also asked UNDCP to provide to States, upon request, guidance and assistance in developing strategies and programmes for reducing illicit drug demand, and encouraged it to gather evaluation information on successful experiences in national prevention programmes and to disseminate it to States and practitioners.

8. In the consolidated first biennial report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to countering the world drug problem together (E/CN.7/2001/16), it was noted that of the 109 Governments replying to the biennial questionnaire, 84 per cent indicated that they had a national drug control strategy and 75 per cent had incorporated the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction into that strategy. Almost all the Governments (89 per cent) reported that their national drug control strategies was multisectoral, with the main sectors being health, social programmes, education, law enforcement, justice, employment, youth organizations, non-governmental organizations and various community-based and civil society organizations.

9. As requested by the Commission at its reconvened forty-fourth session, in December 2001, a framework covering the role and activities of UNDCP in demand reduction was presented to the Commission at its forty-fifth session in April 2002. A review of the core mandates of UNDCP in the field of demand reduction, prepared in the context of the role played by UNDCP, as recognized by Member States, in supporting their efforts to meet the objectives of the special session, provides an analysis of gaps in and priorities of the demand reduction activities undertaken by the Programme. The framework document provides an essential roadmap to UNDCP and Member States to ensure that the vision reflected in the Action Plan was translated into a comprehensive set of activities at the implementation level. In its resolution 45/13, entitled

"Optimizing systems for collecting information and identifying the best practices to counter the demand for illicit drugs", the Commission called upon the Executive Director to prepare, for consideration at its forty-sixth session, a costed programme of work for the period 2002-2008, based on the strategic framework for the implementation of the Action Plan. The programme of work would have the following goals:

(a) Improving national and global information systems for reporting on activities for the reduction of demand for illicit drugs;

(b) Facilitating the sharing of information on best practices in activities for the reduction of demand for illicit drugs;

(c) Supporting Member States seeking experience in developing their own strategies and activities for the reduction of demand for illicit drugs.

10. In its resolution 45/15 entitled "Reducing demand for illicit drugs" the Commission expressed concern that lenient policies towards the use of illicit drugs may hamper the efforts of the international community to address the world drug problem. It reaffirmed the necessity to take appropriate measures to reduce the demand for illicit drugs and called for the implementation of the provisions of the international drug control treaties, in particular those obliging States parties to limit the use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances exclusively to medical and scientific purposes.

IV. Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development

11. In paragraph 18 of the Political Declaration, adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, Member States reaffirmed the need for a comprehensive approach to the elimination of illicit narcotic crops in line with the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development, adopted at that session. They emphasized the need for eradication programmes and law enforcement measures to counter illicit cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking, paying special attention to the protection of the environment.

12. In its resolution 56/124, the General Assembly called upon States in which cultivation and production of illicit crops occur to establish or reinforce, where appropriate, national mechanisms to monitor and verify illicit crops. The Assembly also requested the Executive Director to report to the Commission at its forty-fifth session on the follow-up to the Action Plan. The report of the Executive Director was before the Commission, in April 2002, in document E/CN.7/2002/6.

13. Member States continued in their efforts to implement the goals and objectives set at the special session, concerning the elimination or significant reduction of the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis by the year 2008. A series of business plans were being implemented by Governments, principally in the Andean region and South-East and South-West Asia, with the support of UNDCP. UNDCP continued to engage donor countries and international financial institutions in supporting countries that were affected by illicit cultivation of narcotic crops through alternative development.

14. To implement the Action Plan, UNDCP continued to support Governments affected by the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops by delivering alternative development programmes in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru within the framework of the three business plans for the elimination of illicit drug crops through alternative development. During the biennium 2000-2001, UNDCP implemented 14 alternative development projects with a total budget of 55 million United States dollars ($), of which $18 million were delivered during the biennium to support such projects.

15. The UNDCP strategy is to support the rapid reduction of illicit coca cultivation in Bolivia through the Chapare agroforestry programme, within the framework of the business plan for Bolivia. In the Chapare region, the project has provided assistance to 2,650 families organized in 85 producers' associations and 14 women's groups. In addition, agroforestry systems have now been established over a total area of 3,400 hectares, and environmentally compatible forest management plans now cover over 6,450 hectares. A project for the Yungas, started in mid-2001, is assisting in the establishment of a monitoring system for land use, including coca cultivation in the region. As a

complement to agroforestry, a vocational training programme was initiated in the Chapare in late 2000. The programme aimed at providing training to 8,500 people between the ages of 15 and 34, creating 160 microenterprises. During a first project phase, agreements have been signed with various Bolivian training organizations that provided specialized vocational courses for more than 2,600 people.

16. Under the business plan for Colombia, support was provided to the National Alternative Development Plan and organizations of farmers in seven departments. Eight organizations of farmers with more than 3,000 associated families were supported in production and marketing. Also, in the departments of Meta and Caquetá, more than 60 families have received cattle through a revolving fund. A new project has started in the departments of Caquetá and Nariño aimed at the promotion of dual-purpose cattle-breeding. Five hundred families will receive cattle as a loan in kind, and 1,000 families will receive support in agroforestry systems and food crops. UNDCP also continued its support to Colombia in establishing a monitoring system for illicit crops that enables the identification and annual quantification of illicit coca and opium poppy cultivation.

17. Under the business plan for Peru, alternative development has covered 5 of the 11 major coca-growing areas in Peru, namely, the valleys of Apurimac, Huallaga, Pichis-Palcazú, Aguaytia and Inambari-Tambopata. UNDCP technically and financially supported the production and marketing of traditional crops, including coffee and cacao, as well as the building-up of capital-intensive agro-industrial activities, such as the production of palm oil and palm heart. Assistance was delivered through 14 organizations of farmers reaching 7,760 families.

18. UNDCP provided support for alternative development to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam. In addition, technical assistance was provided in conducting opium-poppy ground surveys in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and in Myanmar.

19. The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic is fully committed to its national strategy for the elimination of opium poppy. The original target year for the elimination of opium poppy cultivation, 2006, was advanced to 2005. According to the national opium survey for 2001, 17,255 hectares are under opium poppy cultivation in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, with a reduction of 36 per cent since 1998. Potential production is estimated at 134 tons. Alternative development has proven to be a feasible option, producing concrete results. In fact, most of the reduction in the area of opium poppy cultivation was achieved in those provinces in which alternative development activities exist.

20. During the period from 1996 to 1999, opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar declined by 38 per cent, increasing slightly in 2000, and stabilizing in 2001 at about 1,100 tons. To date, drug control and alternative development assistance have been very limited. Myanmar has very limited access to official development assistance, which is restricted to humanitarian aid, and does not benefit from assistance from the international financial institutions. In that context, United Nations agencies operating in Myanmar have agreed on the following three priority areas for consultation with the international community and common action: HIV/AIDS prevention, illicit drugs and food security.

21. Since 2001, activities of the ongoing Wa alternative development project in Myanmar have been concentrated on fewer villages, and in just two geographical areas: Nam Lwi (including the township of Mong Hpen) and Nam Naw (including the township of Mong Pawk). The project applies the concept of participatory community development, with bottom-up planning and full participation of the villagers. A substantive project revision was approved in December 2001, formalizing an overall reduction in the project total cost and duration to reflect funding limits. In 2001, UNDCP undertook with the assistance of Myanmar a small-scale illicit opium poppy survey in the project area. In 2002, a full-fledged opium poppy survey was carried out in all poppy-affected regions.

22. As a result of eradication efforts during the 1990s, Viet Nam is no longer a major opium producer. Following the successful conclusion of the first phase of the Ky Son alternative development project in central Viet Nam, a second phase was approved in late 2001. The new project will address sustainability concerns and develop replicable methodologies for the establishment of opium income substitution and drug demand reduction activities among opium-producing ethnic minorities.

23. Periodic recultivation of opium poppy in areas from which it had previously been eradicated has occurred in some remote areas of Viet Nam, leading UNDCP, together with the Government, to develop a second alternative development project in the Song Ma district of Song La, a province in northern Viet Nam. The project is designed to address the problem of opium recultivation and drug abuse, by creating sustainable alternative means of livelihood.

24. In Afghanistan, a ban on poppy cultivation, imposed by the Taliban in July 2000, was effectively implemented in 2001. As a result, poppy cultivation in 2001 was reduced by approximately 94 per cent compared to the year 2000. The 2001 survey estimated the national production of raw opium at 185 tons cultivated over an area of 7,606 hectares. In February 2002, a pre-assessment survey conducted by UNDCP in southern and eastern Afghanistan suggested a major resurgence of opium poppy cultivation on an estimated 45,000 to 65,000 hectares. Within the framework of the Six plus Two group, which includes China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, a regional action plan had been adopted to address the drug problem arising from Afghanistan. Subsequent meetings of the States of the Six plus Two group had been convened to follow up implementation of the regional plan of action and, in particular, to enhance the sharing of information, to develop computer-based training and to strengthen the control of precursors, notably acetic anhydride.

25. UNDCP has continued to be actively involved in inter-agency cooperation and coordination programmes related to Afghanistan, in order to ensure the incorporation of drug control objectives as a cross-cutting theme in the assistance programmes for Afghanistan provided by other agencies and in the post-conflict reconstruction of the country.

26. In Pakistan, the recently concluded terminal evaluation of the UNDCP Dir district development project determined that the project had eliminated opium poppy cultivation in the target area. UNDCP is continuing its advocacy and cooperation with the Government and provincial authorities to ensure the continued elimination of poppy in the traditional opium-poppy-growing areas of the Dir district and the tribal areas of Mohmand and Bajaur in 2002.

V. Measures to promote judicial cooperation

27. In paragraph 16 of the Political Declaration, Member States undertook to promote multilateral, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation among judicial and law enforcement authorities to deal with criminal organizations involved in drug offences and related criminal activities, in accordance with the measures to promote judicial cooperation adopted at the twentieth special session. To that end, States were encouraged to review and, where appropriate, to strengthen by the year 2003 the implementation of those measures. In resolution 56/124, the General Assembly called upon States to adopt effective measures to strengthen national judicial systems and to carry out effective drug control activities in cooperation with other States.

28. In section I of its resolution 56/124, the General Assembly urged all States to ratify or accede to and implement all the provisions of the international drug control treaties. The international drug control treaties provide a framework for international cooperation and enjoy almost universal adherence. From 10 June 1998, when the twentieth special session ended, to 3 June 2002, 19 States became parties to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[1] making a total of 166 States parties to that Convention, in addition to the European Community; 17 States became parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961[2] and that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[3] making a total of 178 States parties; and 15 States became parties to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[4] bringing to 172 the total number of States parties to that Convention.

29. Since the special session, approximately 80 countries around the world have adopted a total of at least 300 new laws and regulations relating to one or several aspects of drug control, in particular, precursors, mutual legal assistance, extradition, money-laundering, confiscation, controlled delivery and trafficking by sea. Many of those laws were the result of the assistance provided by the UNDCP Legal Advisory Programme, which has, since 1998, provided assistance in the legal drafting process to 32 States, on the basis of model laws developed and regularly updated. The different models address issues such as

regulation of internationally controlled drugs for medical, scientific and other lawful purposes; regulation of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of internationally controlled drugs; diversion, treatment and rehabilitation of drug-abusing offenders; preventing or detecting money-laundering; investigation and prosecution of drug trafficking, money-laundering and related serious offences; tracing, freezing, seizing and confiscating wealth from drug trafficking and other serious crime; mutual legal assistance and extradition of drug traffickers and other serious offenders; and maritime cooperation against illicit traffic.

30. To promote the implementation of the 1988 Convention, the Legal Advisory Programme organized national, subregional and regional meetings bringing together judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officials and other officials from Southern, Western and Central Africa, Central, South-West and South-East Asia, Central and South America, the Caribbean, Eastern and Central Europe and the Middle East. In several cases specific national manuals for judges and prosecutors were developed and training has been provided in 13 States. The Legal Advisory Programme also contributed to strengthening case management systems in seven jurisdictions. It assisted five of them in planning, establishing and operating drug treatment courts that stop ongoing criminal recidivism by drug-abusing offenders. Special on-the-job mentoring programmes were developed to assist prosecutors and judges in successfully prosecuting and adjudicating major cases, confiscating criminal wealth and dismantling the networks involved. A specific programme is being developed in collaboration with the Organization of the Islamic Conference to harmonize legislation and train the judiciary in States members of that Organization. Using informal international expert working groups, guidelines and procedures for best practice in asset forfeiture casework, mutual legal assistance casework, drug abuse offenders casework and computer-based crime casework were developed.

31. UNDCP has developed a manual for the training of law enforcement personnel involved in search and seizure of vessels under article 17 of the 1988 Convention, which has been used extensively.

32. National judicial systems are being strengthened through general reform as well as specific action targeting drug offences. In several countries, the inappropriateness of the judicial treatment of offenders who are drug addicts has led to the development of drug-treatment courts, which through a multi-disciplinary approach target both the treatment of the addiction and the punishment of the offences. UNDCP has developed best practices for improving the intersectoral impact in drug abuse offenders casework.

33. Bilateral and multilateral agreements have been signed to implement articles 5, 6, 7, 11 and 17 of the 1988 Convention between countries in all regions, in particular in the Americas and Europe. There has been an increase of the numbers of requests for assistance under those articles, mostly under article 7, relating to mutual legal assistance. However, the number of States reporting such requests remains stable. UNDCP is developing a reference manual for the competent authorities involved in sending requests under articles 7 and 17. Best practices and guidelines in relation to casework, confiscation, asset forfeiture and mutual legal assistance have also been developed.

34. At the forty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2002, several States indicated that new legislation had been adopted to enhance judicial cooperation, including measures to implement the international drug control conventions, in particular, the provisions of the 1988 Convention. The judiciary had been restructured in order to be in a better position to address the drug problem.

VI. Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors

35. In paragraph 13 of the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, Member States decided to devote particular attention to the emerging trends in the illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and consumption of synthetic drugs. They called for the establishment or strengthening by the year 2003 of national legislation and programmes giving effect to the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and their Precursors.

A. Diversion of precursors

36. In view of increasing concern about the diversion of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants, a number of initiatives have been launched by Governments calling for international action. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2001/14 entitled "Prevention of diversion of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of synthetic drugs", called for international action to prevent the diversion of controlled and non-controlled chemicals from international trade and for law enforcement action against the smuggling of those substances.

B. Amphetamine-type stimulants

37. At the forty-fifth session of the Commission, it was noted that trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants had been growing quickly in East and South-East Asia. The two main types of amphetamine-type stimulant trafficked in that subregion were methamphetamine and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA). The Commission adopted resolution 45/2 entitled "Enhanced measures for international cooperation in the control of illicit drugs", in which the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, was commended on its agreement to develop a coordinated plan to counter the threat posed by amphetamine-type stimulants and to tackle the transnational criminal groups behind the illicit drug trade in Asia and the Pacific.

38. A high-level conference was convened by UNDCP in November 2001 with the Government of Belgium on "Identifying, understanding and responding to the problem of amphetamine-type stimulants: What works?". Furthermore, countering the illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants has become a top priority in east Asia and the Pacific. A technical meeting attended by representatives from all States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China endorsed an inter-agency programme to implement the plan of action entitled "Association of South-East Asian Nations and China Co-operation Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs", known as ACCORD, endorsed by the International Congress "In pursuit of a Drug-free ASEAN 2015: Sharing the Vision, Leading the Change" held in Bangkok from 11-13 October 2000. The ASEAN secretariat and UNDCP convened the first meeting of task forces under the ACCORD Action Plan cooperation mechanism in Bali, Indonesia, in November 2001. The terms of reference and the 2002 work plans for each task force were approved. In that connection, the plans addressed public communication strategies, amphetamine-type stimulants, demand reduction, law enforcement, training of judiciary and national alternative development programmes, strengthening national capabilities to monitor opium poppy cultivation and studies of good practices on alternative development.

VII. Control of chemical precursors

39. In paragraph 14 of the Political Declaration, Member States decided to devote particular attention to measures for the control of precursors adopted at the twentieth special session and to establish the year 2008 as a target date for States, with a view to eliminating or reducing significantly the illicit manufacture, marketing and trafficking of psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs, and the diversion of precursors.

40. During 2001, the International Narcotics Control Board reported that the exchange of information between Governments and the Board to verify the legitimacy of individual shipments of controlled chemicals prevented diversion of large amounts of those chemicals from international trade for use in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.[5] Diversions from domestic manufacture and distribution channels, however, continued to be a significant source of the controlled chemicals found in illicit channels, especially acetic anhydride and precursors used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants.

41. In 2001, Operation Purple, the voluntary international initiative to track individual shipments of potassium permanganate in international trade, continued to achieve success in preventing diversions into illicit traffic for the manufacture of cocaine. Countries participating in the initiative identified new methods and routes of diversion that traffickers were attempting to use after certain trafficking routes had been identified and dismantled. There was an increase

in the number and volume of shipments of potassium permanganate to countries not participating in the operation, in particular those countries in Asia. The increasing volume in trade coincided with numerous diversions and attempted diversions of potassium permanganate uncovered in South-East Asia.

42. Operation Topaz, a comparable initiative for acetic anhydride, was launched in March 2001. Drug traffickers divert acetic anhydride not only from international trade, but also from domestic distribution channels, to be smuggled into the areas where illicit manufacture of heroin takes place. The early stages of Operation Topaz showed that the number of transactions in licit international trade and the amounts traded are much larger for acetic anhydride than for potassium permanganate. Furthermore, the licit trade routes are more complex, with most shipments going through trans-shipment points rather than directly to consumer countries. The Board noted that the operating procedures for pre-export notifications for individual shipments were working well. Law enforcement authorities also reported large seizures of intercepted smuggled acetic anhydride.

43. In view of the concern over the diversions of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants, the Board convened an international meeting in June 2002 in order to launch an international project focusing on those precursors. The meeting involved the major manufacturing and trading countries, as well as those countries where illicit manufacture takes place. Participants in that meeting reviewed the extent of global licit trade of the precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants as well as the methods and routes of diversions used by traffickers, and devised working mechanisms and standard operating procedures to prevent diversions of those substances for use in illicit drug manufacture.

VIII. Countering money-laundering

44. In paragraph 15 of the Political Declaration, Member States undertook to make special efforts against the laundering of money derived from drug trafficking and, in that context, emphasized the importance of strengthening international, regional and subregional cooperation. They recommended that States that had not yet done so adopt by 2003 national money-laundering legislation and programmes in accordance with the relevant provisions of the 1988 Convention as well as the measures for countering money-laundering adopted at the twentieth special session. Those measures called for a widening of the scope of anti-money-laundering provisions beyond drug trafficking to include all serious crime.

45. UNDCP, through the Global Programme against Money Laundering of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat, continued to be the focal point in the United Nations system for issues related to money-laundering and proceeds derived from all serious crime, providing technical assistance to States in that field. It continued to work closely with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and related regional bodies, the Egmont Group, the International Monetary Fund, the Commonwealth Secretariat and other international bodies. UNDCP assisted a number of countries with the development of anti-money-laundering legal frameworks, including by reviewing legislation, and at the operational level with the establishment of financial intelligence units. It also upgraded the International Money Laundering Information Network, a multifaceted web site administered on behalf of seven international organizations, which includes over 200 items of national legislation and which is available to Member States for reference.

IX. Ministerial segment of the Commission

46. In its resolution 56/124, the General Assembly welcomed the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the forty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of an item on the preparations for the ministerial segment to be held in 2003, to focus on the progress made by States in implementing the action plans and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session.

47. In its resolution 45/7, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided that the theme of the ministerial-level segment should be the assessment of the progress achieved and the difficulties encountered in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session. It recommended that the ministerial-level segment to be held in April 2003, issue a joint ministerial statement to cover an

assessment of the implementation of the commitments assumed at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and recommendations for the period 2003-2007. The Commission further recommended that the joint ministerial statement be submitted to the General Assembly in 2003, together with its report on the progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration. The Commission also requested Member States to submit, in a timely manner and no later than 30 June 2002, their replies to the questionnaire providing information to be included in the biennial report of the Executive Director.

X. United Nations International Drug Control Programme as a catalyst for action by Member States and the United Nations system

48. In resolution 56/124, the Assembly requested UNDCP to continue to strengthen dialogue with Member States and also to ensure continued improvement in management, so as to contribute to enhanced and sustainable programme delivery and further encourage the Executive Director to maximize the effectiveness of the Programme, inter alia, through the full implementation of resolution 44/16 of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The Assembly emphasized the role of the Commission as the principal United Nations policy-making body on drug control issues and as the governing body of the Programme.

49. The 2002 annual report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (E/CN.7/2002/8) provided an overview of the strategic direction of UNDCP and of the principal activities undertaken during 2001 in support of the efforts of the international community to implement the goals and objectives agreed upon at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. At the national, regional and international levels, UNDCP acted as a catalyst, supported by its network of field offices located in key regions and countries, to encourage, facilitate and support action by Governments at the national and regional levels. It mobilized specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, other intergovernmental organizations and civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations.

50. The Officer-in-Charge of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention reported to the Commission at its forty-fifth session in April 2002 on measures taken to fully implement its resolution 44/16 through continued improvement in management which contributed to enhanced and sustainable programme delivery and to maximizing the effectiveness of UNDCP and the role of the Commission as its governing body (E/CN.7/2002/9). At that session, the Commission adopted resolution 45/17 entitled "Strengthening the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body". The Commission, as the governing body of UNDCP, reaffirmed its governing role in the UNDCP budget process, which includes, inter alia, advising the Programme in the preparation and implementation of the biennial budget and the management of the resources of the Programme, on the basis of the priorities established by Member States. The Commission urged UNDCP to continue the reform undertaken, based on its resolution 44/16 and the recommendations contained in the reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit. It requested the Executive Director to prepare a report evaluating the situation of the support budget and general-purpose funds of UNDCP, containing options for securing assured and predictable funding for its forty-sixth session in 2003, bearing in mind the voluntary nature of contributions to the Fund of UNDCP.

51. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of resolution 44/16, informal joint meetings of donor and recipient countries were convened by the Executive Director of UNDCP under the leadership of the Chairman of the Commission. The meetings held on 5 and 13 July 2001 considered elements of a strategy for Africa and the UNDCP programme in Afghanistan. The meeting was informed of operational activities of UNDCP in the field of drug demand reduction. The third meeting of donor and recipient countries held on 9 October considered initiatives to implement the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Demand Reduction (General Assembly resolution S-20/3, annex), a status report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the external auditors and the UNDCP programme for Afghanistan.

52. On 17 May 2002, the newly appointed Executive Director convened a meeting for Permanent

Representatives to the United Nations at Vienna for the purpose of discussing the priorities and challenges facing the Programme. Further actions to continue to improve the operation and management of the Programme included: a yearly evaluation plan that is kept updated and available to Member States on the secure web site for permanent missions; the establishment of the Programme and Project Committee and of the Programme and Financial Information Management System (ProFi); the adoption of a result-based budget approach and the institution of procedures for the evaluation of activities at the thematic and programme levels. The Executive Director outlined the following five major challenges facing the Programme: good governance, both internal and external; strategic clarity in setting the framework for operations; predictability of resources and the commitment to deliver; staff motivation; and communication, both within and outside the system.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

[3] Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.

[4] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[5] *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2001* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.XI.1), para. 146.